Alberta Labour Force Profiles

Immigrants
2011

Alberta

Highlights

Please, see the appendix for important definitions.

1. Immigrants in Alberta

- Of the 6.4 million working age immigrants in Canada, 9.4% lived in Alberta in 2011.
- Alberta's immigrants accounted for 20.0% of its working age population in 2011, the third highest percentage among the provinces.
- Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada increased from 6.5% in 2001 to 12.4% in 2011.

2. Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta

- Alberta had the highest labour force participation and employment rates of immigrants among provinces in Canada in 2011.
- The participation rates of Alberta's male and female immigrants, of 75.8% and 64.7% respectively, were lower than the participation rates for all males and females in the province.
- Immigrants accounted for 19.7% of Alberta's unemployed people in 2011.
- Very recent immigrants experienced a higher unemployment rate than other immigrants or all Albertans.
- The unemployment rate of established immigrants, of 4.8%, was lower than the provincial rate of 5.5%.

3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector employed 77.2% of all working immigrants compared to 72.5% of all working Albertans in 2011.
- Over one quarter of all working immigrants were employed in Trade (retail and wholesale) and Health Care and Social Assistance industries.

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

- The proportion of immigrants who were employed in the following occupations was higher than the proportion for all Albertans: Sales and services; Natural and applied sciences; Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities; and Health.
- Of employed very recent immigrants, 35.7% worked in the Sales and services occupations compared to 23.3% of all Albertans.

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

- A slightly higher percentage of employed immigrants, 85.0%, worked full-time compared to 82.9% of all employed people in Alberta.
- A higher percentage of Albertans aged 15-24 worked full-time compared to similarly aged immigrants.

6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

- On average, immigrants earned $1.65 less per hour than all Albertans.

- Immigrants earned higher average hourly wages than all Albertans in the following four industries: Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Information, Culture and Recreation; and Public Administration.
- The average hourly wage of $25.47 for all Albertans was higher than the average hourly wage of $23.82 for immigrants in all occupational groups except Art, culture, recreation and sport; and Business, finance and administrative.
- Among immigrants, established immigrants earned the highest average hourly wage of $25.10, followed by recent immigrants of $22.94, and $20.79 for very recent immigrants.

1. Immigrants[1] in Alberta

The distribution of Canada's immigrant working age population (WAP) by province shows that in 2011, Alberta was home to 9.4% of Canada's working age immigrant population. (Figure 1)

Figure 1

Canada's Immigrant Working Age Population by Province, 2011

	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	% Share
Canada	**6,408,700**	**100.0%**
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,000	0.1%
Prince Edward Island	5,900	0.1%
Nova Scotia	45,800	0.7%
New Brunswick	25,300	0.4%
Quebec	887,800	13.9%
Ontario	3,488,800	54.4%
Manitoba	170,800	2.7%
Saskatchewan	63,100	1.0%
Alberta	601,200	9.4%
British Columbia	1,111,000	17.3%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Alberta had the third highest percentage of immigrants in its working age population at 20.0%, behind British Columbia at 29.4%, and Ontario at 31.9%. (Figure 2)

Figure 2

Percentage of Immigrants in Working Age Population
Canada and Provinces, 2011

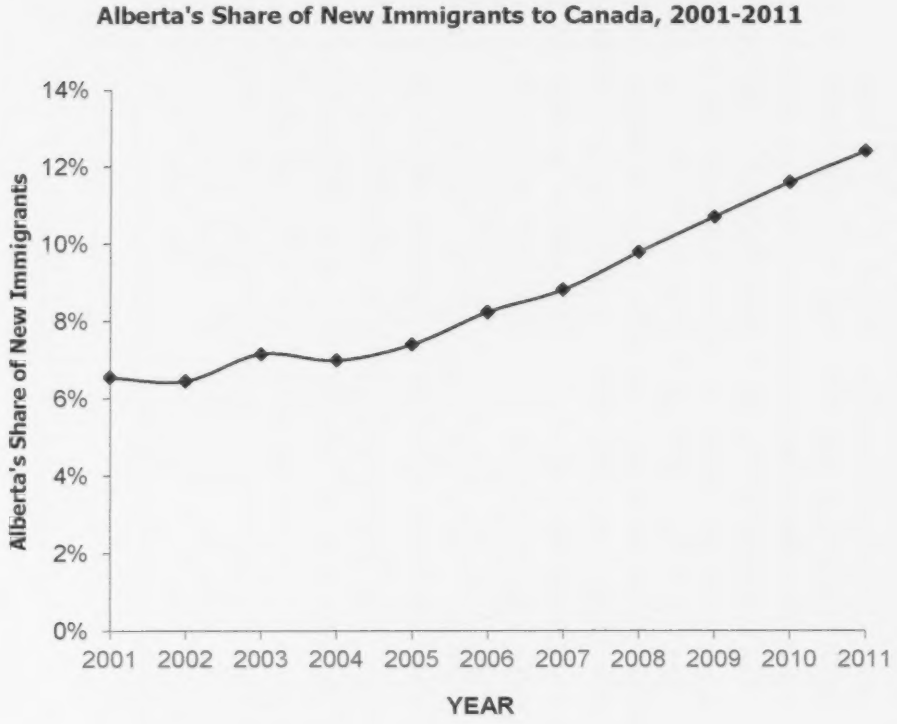
	Total Population (15+ years)	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	% Immigrant Population (15+ years)
Canada	**27,987,300**	**6,408,700**	**22.9%**
Newfoundland and Labrador	428,800	9,000	2.1%
Prince Edward Island	119,200	5,900	4.9%
Nova Scotia	779,100	45,800	5.9%
New Brunswick	619,400	25,300	4.1%
Quebec	6,575,800	887,800	13.5%
Ontario	10,926,300	3,488,800	31.9%
Manitoba	953,300	170,800	17.9%
Saskatchewan	800,000	63,100	7.9%
Alberta	3,006,600	601,200	20.0%
British Columbia	3,778,800	1,111,000	29.4%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

[1] Temporary foreign workers, refugee claimants and other non-permanent residents are not immigrants and are excluded from this analysis.

Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada grew continuously since 2004. (Figure 3) Alberta's share of Canada's new immigrants increased from 6.5% in 2001 to 12.4% in 2011. In this same period, Alberta's share of Canada's total working age population increased from 9.7% to 10.7%.

Figure 3



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Preliminary 2011 Data

2. Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta

The 601,200 immigrants in Alberta made up 20.0% of Alberta's working age population in 2011, while the immigrant labour force of 421,800 was 19.0% of Alberta's labour force. (Figure 4)

Figure 4

Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta, 2011

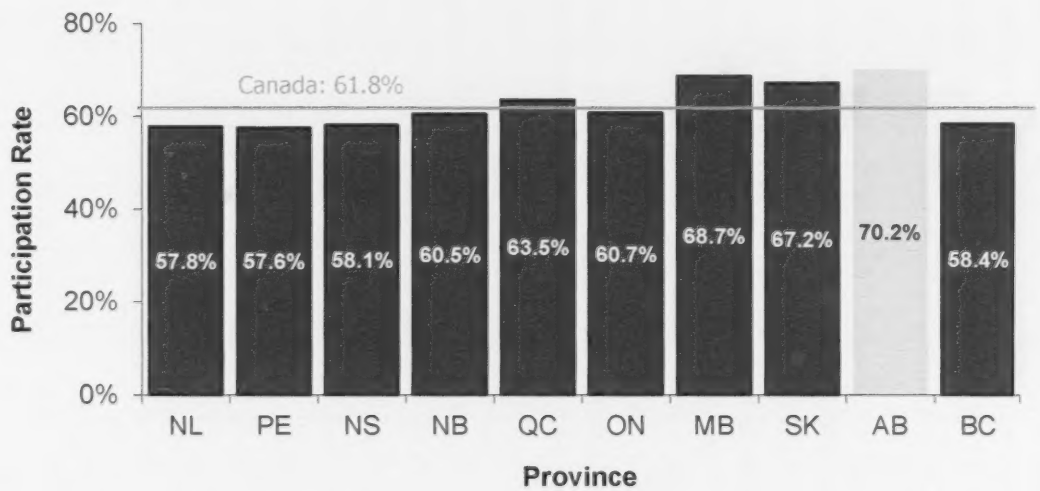
	All Albertans* (15+ years)	Immigrants (15+ years)
Working Age Population	3,006,600	601,200
Labour Force	2,215,200	421,800
Employment	2,094,100	397,900
Unemployment	121,000	23,800
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.6%
Participation Rate	73.7%	70.2%
Employment Rate	69.7%	66.2%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011
* The term "Albertans" means the people or inhabitants or residents of the Province of Alberta

In 2011, immigrants in Alberta had the highest participation rate among all provinces, at 70.2%. The Canadian rate for immigrants was 61.8%. (Figure 5)

Figure 5

Participation Rate of Immigrants by Province, 2011

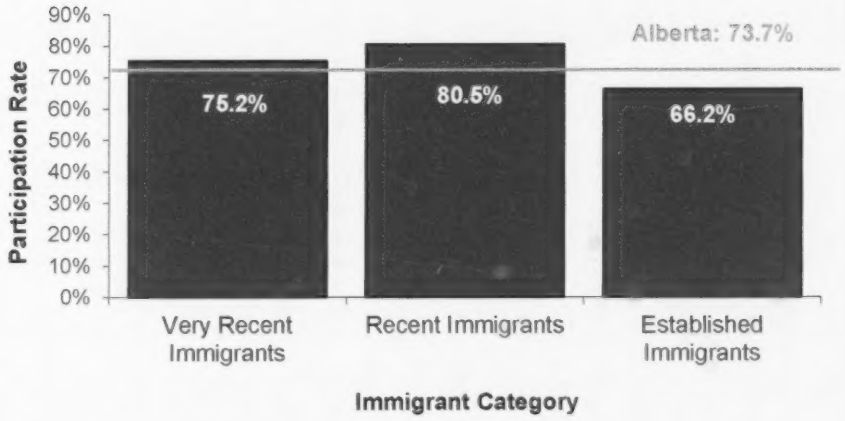


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

At 80.5%, Alberta's recent immigrants had the highest participation rate among the three immigrant categories in 2011. (Figure 6) This rate was 14.3 percentage points higher than the participation rate of established immigrants and 6.8 percentage points higher than the rate for all Albertans.

Figure 6

Participation Rate by Immigrant Category, 2011

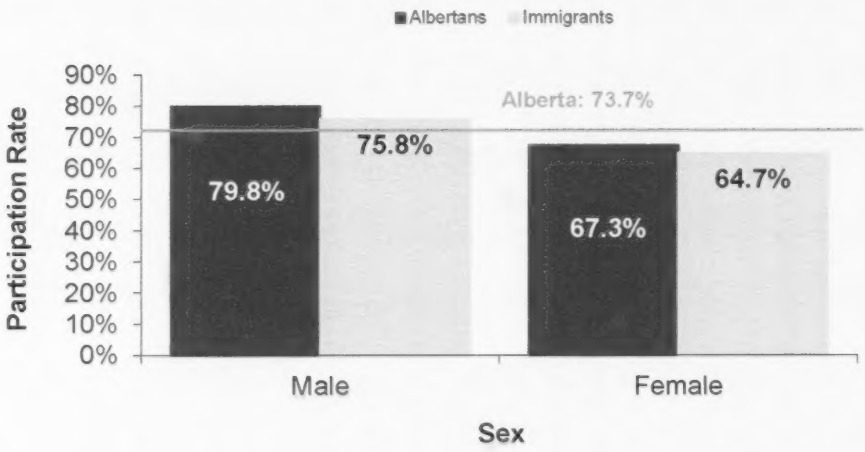


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011.
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

The participation rates of all males and females in Alberta were higher than the corresponding rates for male and female immigrants. (Figure 7)

Figure 7

Participation Rates of Albertans and Immigrants by Sex, 2011

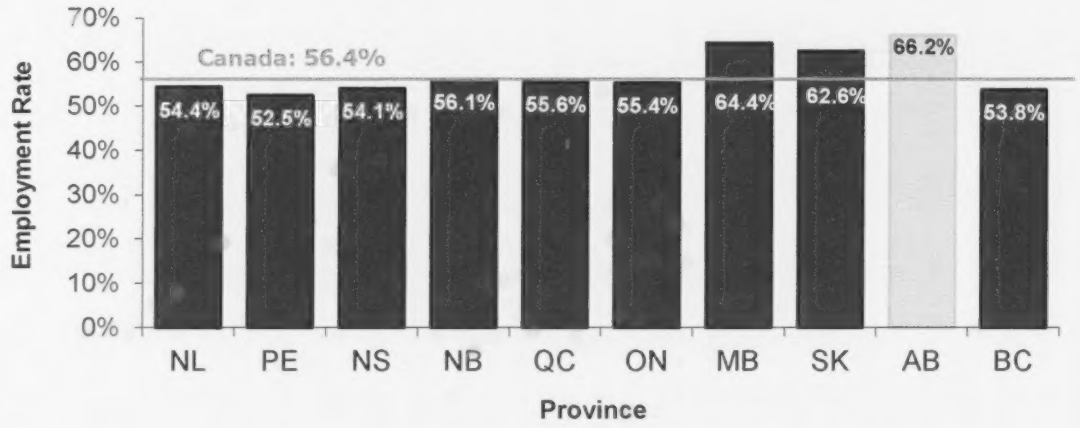


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Of immigrants in Canada's ten provinces, immigrants in Alberta had the highest employment rate in 2011. (Figure 8) The employment rate of immigrants in Alberta was 66.2%, which was 9.8 percentage points above the Canadian rate of 56.4% for immigrants.

Figure 8

Employment Rate of Immigrants by Province, 2011

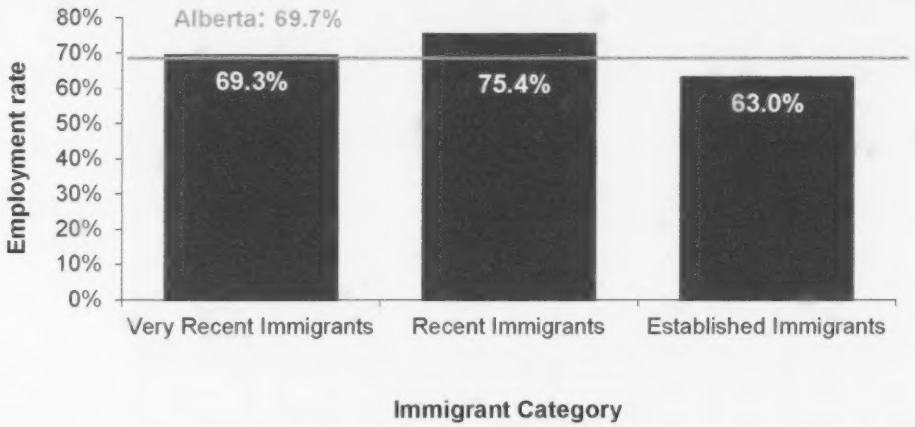


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

In 2011, recent immigrants in Alberta had the highest employment rate, at 75.4%. (Figure 9) This rate was 12.4 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants. The employment rate for all Albertans was 69.7%.

Figure 9

Employment Rate by Immigrant Category, 2011

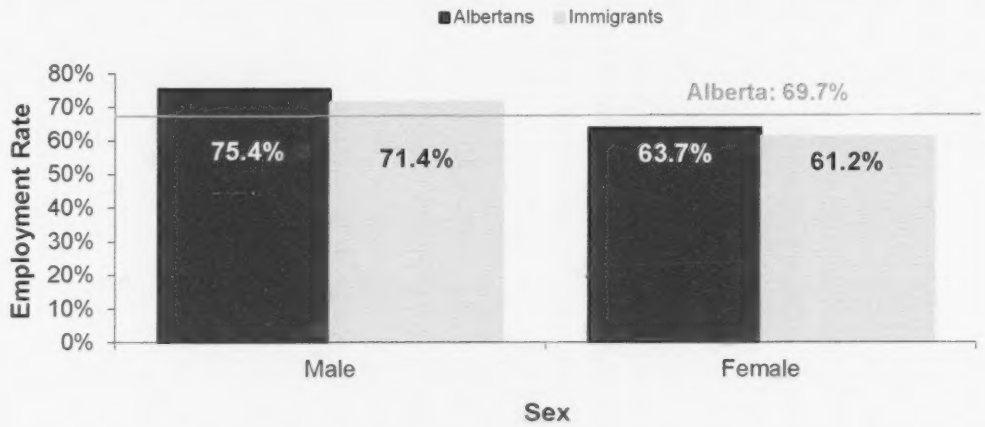


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2011
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

The employment rate of immigrant males was 4.0 percentage points lower than the rate for all males in Alberta in 2011, and the rate for immigrant females was 2.5 percentage points lower than the rate for all females in Alberta. (Figure 10)

Figure 10

Employment Rates of Albertans and Immigrants by Sex, 2011

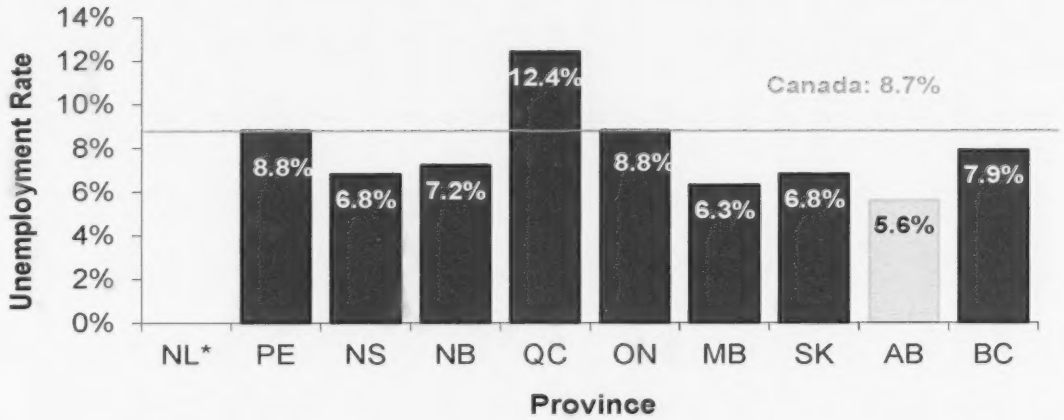


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2011

Immigrants accounted for 19.7% of Alberta's unemployed people in 2011. Their unemployment rate of 5.6% was 0.1 percentage point higher than the unemployment rate of 5.5% for all Albertans but below Canada's unemployment rate of 8.7% for immigrants. (Figure 11)

Figure 11

Unemployment Rate of Immigrants by Province, 2011

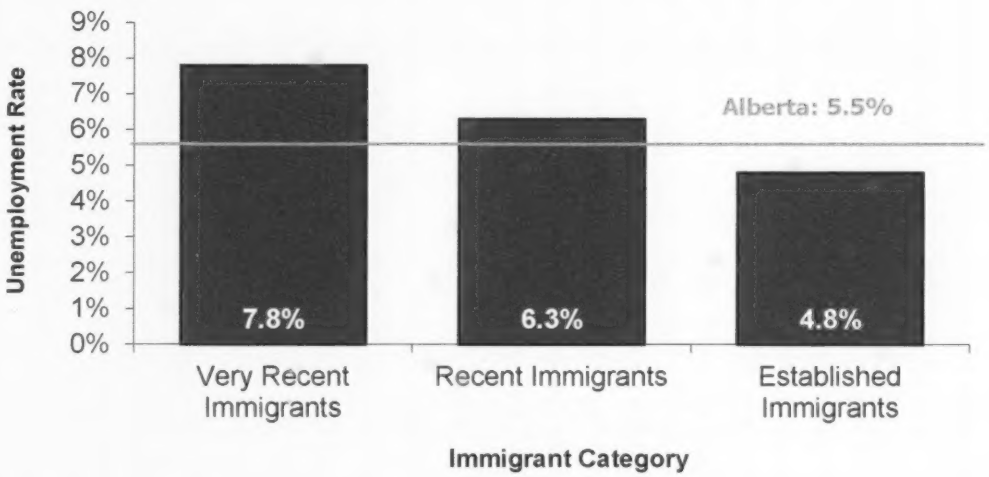


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011
*The rate for Newfoundland and Labrador was not disclosed.

The unemployment rates for immigrants in 2011 varied by the length of residence in the country since arrival. The unemployment rate for very recent immigrants was 3.0 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants. (Figure 12)

Figure 12

Unemployment Rate by Immigrant Category, 2011



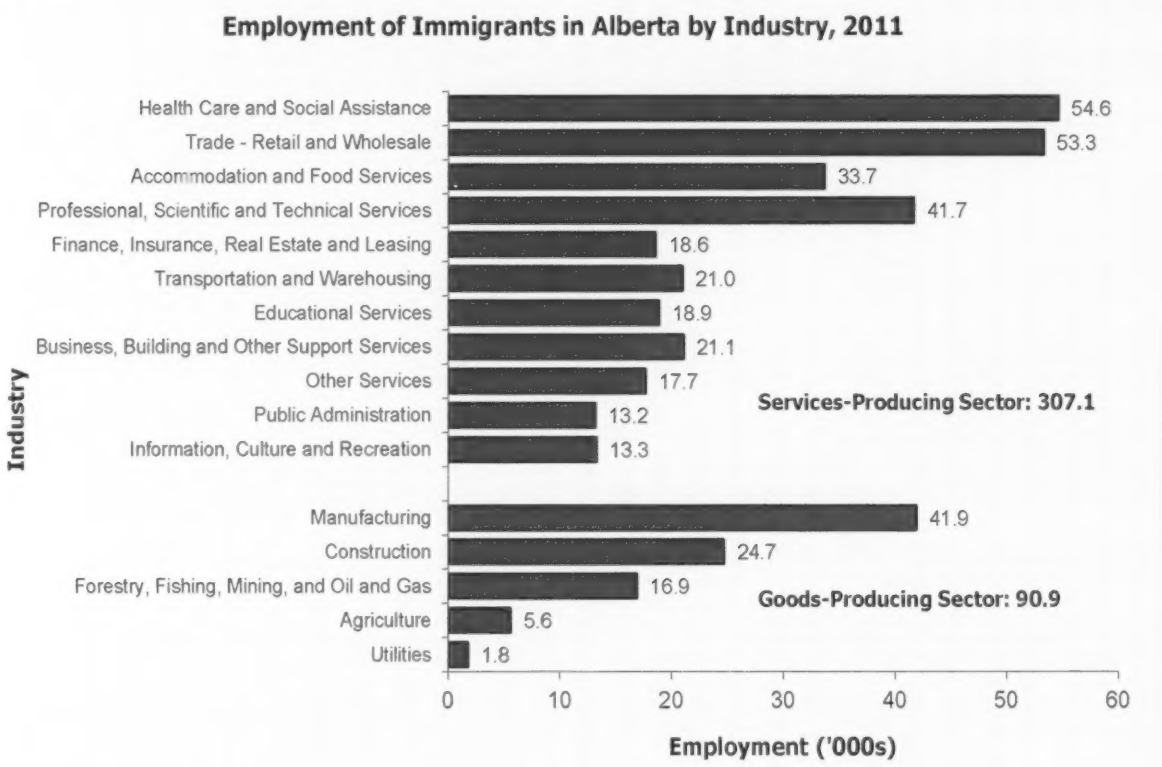
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2011
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

In 2011, 77.2% of Alberta immigrants' employment, or 307,100, was in the Services-Producing Sector. (Figure 13) The percentage of all Albertans who worked in this sector was 72.5%.

The top five industries in which immigrants were employed in 2011 were: Health Care and Social Assistance, 54,600; Trade - Retail and Wholesale, 53,300; Manufacturing, 41,900; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 41,700; and Accommodation and Food Services, 33,700. Together, these five industries accounted for 56.6% of all immigrant employment in the province.

Figure 13



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

The proportion of immigrants employed in the Goods-Producing sector was 22.8%, which was 4.7 percentage points lower than the proportion for all Albertans. (Figure 14) More immigrants were employed in the Services-Producing sector: 80.8% of very recent immigrants, 74.8% of recent immigrants, and 76.9% of established immigrants worked in this sector in 2011.

For very recent immigrants, 42.2% worked in three industries: Trade; Accommodation and Food Services; and Health Care and Social Assistance. For recent immigrants, almost half, or 48.4%, worked in four industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Trade; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, and Manufacturing. For established immigrants, almost half, or 48.4% were employed in these four industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Trade; Manufacturing; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

For all Albertans, 44.0% were employed in the following four industries: Trade; Health Care and Social Assistance; Construction; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

Figure 14

Percentage Distribution of Employed Albertans and Immigrants by Industry, 2011

Industry	Alberta	Total Landed Immigrants	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Goods-Producing Sector	**27.5%**	**22.8%**	**19.2%**	**25.1%**	**23.1%**
Agriculture	2.5%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	7.4%	4.2%	3.1%	6.4%	3.9%
Utilities	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Construction	10.1%	6.2%	4.7%	7.4%	6.2%
Manufacturing	6.8%	10.5%	9.5%	9.4%	11.2%
Services-Producing Sector	**72.5%**	**77.2%**	**80.8%**	**74.8%**	**76.9%**
Trade	15.4%	13.4%	17.3%	12.4%	12.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	5.1%	5.3%	4.7%	6.0%	5.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	4.8%	4.7%	2.5%	5.5%	5.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	7.8%	10.5%	9.3%	10.7%	10.8%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	3.5%	5.3%	7.8%	4.3%	4.9%
Education Services	6.1%	4.7%	4.1%	2.0%	5.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	10.7%	13.7%	10.9%	15.9%	13.8%
Information, Culture and Recreation	3.8%	3.3%	4.3%	3.6%	3.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	6.2%	8.5%	14.0%	8.3%	7.0%
Other Services	5.0%	4.4%	4.0%	3.9%	4.8%
Public Administration	4.0%	3.3%	2.2%	2.3%	4.0%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

The percentage distribution of all employed Albertans and immigrants by occupation showed that in 2011, proportionately more immigrants than Albertans were employed in four occupations. (Figure 15) These occupations are Natural and applied sciences and related; Health; Sales and services; and Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities. Together, these four occupations accounted for 52.4% of all employed immigrants compared to 40.9% of all employed Albertans.

Figure 15

Percent Distribution of Employed Albertans and Immigrants by Occupation, 2011

Occupation	All Albertans	Immigrants
Management	7.5%	7.4%
Business, finance and administrative	18.0%	16.4%
Natural and applied sciences and related	8.3%	12.8%
Health	6.0%	7.6%
Social science, education, government service and religion	7.5%	6.2%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	2.3%	1.2%
Sales and service	23.3%	26.0%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	18.6%	14.5%
Unique to primary industry	5.4%	2.0%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	3.3%	6.0%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

In 2011, the occupation that had the highest proportions of employed very recent, recent and established immigrants was Sales and service. (Figure 16)

Figure 16

Percentage Distribution of Employed Immigrants by Category and Occupation, 2011

Occupation	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Management	5.0%	5.4%	8.6%
Business, finance and administrative	11.7%	17.1%	17.4%
Natural and applied sciences and related	11.9%	14.7%	12.5%
Health	6.3%	7.0%	8.1%
Social science, education, government service and religion	6.0%	7.3%	6.0%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
Sales and service	35.7%	25.2%	23.6%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	13.5%	13.6%	15.1%
Unique to primary industry	2.2%	2.5%	1.8%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	6.6%	6.6%	5.6%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

Proportionately more immigrants, 85.0%, were employed full-time in 2011 compared to Albertans, 82.9%. (Figure 17) Established immigrants had the highest percentage of members employed full-time, 85.8%, while very recent immigrants had the highest percentage of part-time employment, 17.2%.

Figure 17

Full- and Part-Time Employment of All Albertans and Immigrants, 2011

	Employment	% Full-time Employment	% Part-time Employment
All Albertans	**2,094,100**	**82.9%**	**17.1%**
Immigrants	**397,900**	**85.0%**	**15.1%**
Very Recent Immigrants	68,100	82.8%	17.2%
Recent Immigrants	79,700	84.2%	15.8%
Established Immigrants	250,200	85.8%	14.2%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2011

In 2011, a higher percentage of all Albertans aged 15-24 was employed full-time than similarly aged immigrants. (Figure 18) In the 55+ age group, however, a higher percentage of immigrants was employed full-time than all Albertans.

Figure 18

Full-time and Part-time Employment of Albertans and Immigrants by Age Group, 2011

	All Albertans		Immigrants	
	Employed	Percent (%)	Employed	Percent (%)
All 15+ years	2,094,100	100.0%	397,900	100.0%
Full-time	1,736,000	82.9%	338,100	85.0%
Part-time	358,200	17.1%	59,900	15.1%
15-24 years	318,900	15.2%	28,100	7.1%
Full-time	202,700	9.7%	16,100	4.0%
Part-time	116,100	5.5%	12,000	3.0%
25-54 years	1,423,000	68.0%	288,500	72.5%
Full-time	1,254,400	59.9%	256,100	64.4%
Part-time	168,600	8.1%	32,300	8.1%
55+ years	352,300	16.8%	81,300	20.4%
Full-time	278,800	13.3%	65,800	16.5%
Part-time	73,500	3.5%	15,500	3.9%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

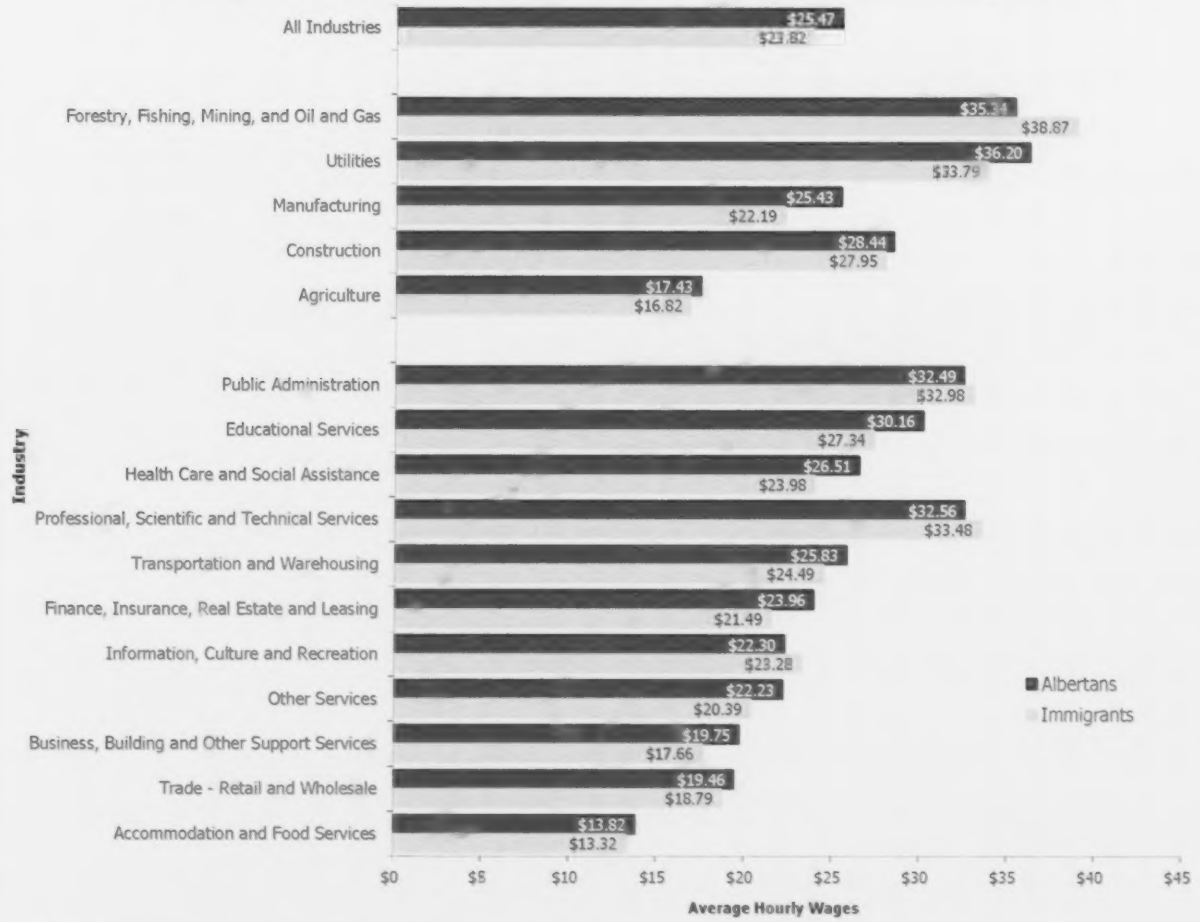
6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

Immigrants employed in four industries earned higher average hourly wages than Albertans: Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas; Public Administration; Information, Culture and Recreation; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. (Figure 19)

Overall, immigrants' hourly wages were $1.65 less, on average, than all Albertans.

Figure 19

Average Hourly Wages of Albertans and Immigrants by Industry, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

The average hourly wages of Albertans were higher than those of immigrants in all but two Occupations: Art, culture, recreation and sport; and Business, finance and administrative. (Figure 20) The three occupations with the largest differences in the average hourly wage between Albertans and Immigrants were: Unique to primary industry, with a differential of $6.04; Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities, $4.32; and Management, $4.27.

The two occupations in which immigrants received an average hourly wage higher than Albertans are Business, finance and administrative occupations, and Art, culture, recreation and sport.

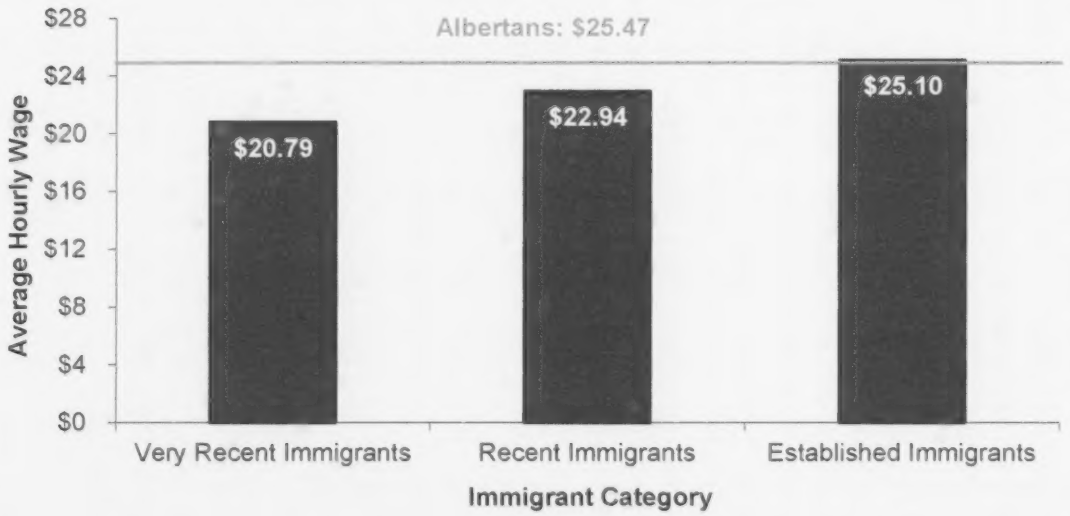
Figure 20

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

The average hourly wages immigrants received were higher as they became more established in Alberta. (Figure 21) Established immigrants received the highest average hourly wage, which were $4.31 more than very recent immigrants and $2.16 more than recent immigrants in 2011.

Figure 21

Average Hourly Wages of Immigrants by Category, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Review, 2011

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Immigrant: Refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Canadian citizens by birth and non-permanent residents (persons from another country who live in Canada and have a work or study permit, or are claiming refugee status, as well as family members living here with them) are not landed immigrants. **Very recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for 5 years or less prior to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). **Recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 5 years but no more than 10 years prior to the LFS. **Established immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 10 years prior to the LFS.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.